



# NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND

## WHAT IT MEANS FOR HISPANIC AMERICANS



### The Challenge

- We must close the achievement gap between Hispanic American students and their peers:
  - Hispanic children often don't attend school until they reach mandatory school age.
  - They have the highest dropout rates of any group in the country—more than 27 percent of Hispanic students drop out.
  - On the 2000 National Assessment of Educational Progress reading assessment, 40 percent of white fourth-graders scored at or above proficient, compared to only 16 percent of their Hispanic peers.
  - In math, Hispanic achievement also lagged: 35 percent of white fourth-graders scored at or above proficient. Just 10 percent of Hispanics scored as high achievers.
  - Just 13 percent of Hispanic students get a college education.

### No Child Left Behind

- The President is committed to eliminating the achievement gap. That's why No Child Left Behind requires states to develop systems examining achievement every year in third through eighth grades by race, ethnicity, economic background and disabilities.
- English language learners will be assessed annually in English language acquisition and in math and reading, beginning in the third grade. Students can be tested in their native language in the content areas for three years in order to accurately assess their knowledge; a two-year extension is also possible. Parents will know how their children are progressing, and states and schools will be held accountable for results.
- No Child Left Behind's accountability provisions mean every parent will know when their child is falling behind, and they will have new options – tutoring, after-school programs, remedial classes, summer school, and transfers to other public schools – if their child's school isn't meeting their needs.

### Funding

- Under the President's budget, Title I funding will be increased to \$12.4 billion to help children succeed in our nation's high-poverty area schools – a 55 percent increase in Title I funding since 2000.
- President Bush has requested more than \$94 million dollars to support Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs). HSIs are colleges or universities in which Hispanic Americans represent at least 25 percent of the student population, at least half of whom are low-income.
- Despite all the priorities competing for our tax dollars – strengthening our economy, defending our nation, and expanding opportunities for all Americans – the President's budget boosts education funding to \$53.1 billion – historic levels for our nation's children. This is an \$11 billion increase since the President first took office.

### Research

- The President formed the Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans, which presented its final report, *From Risk to Opportunity: Fulfilling the Educational Needs of Hispanic Americans in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* on March 31, 2003. The report contains six (6) recommendations for increasing the educational attainment of Hispanic Americans, which encompassed the entire education continuum from early childhood through postsecondary education, as well as federal accountability and coordination, and research.
- No Child Left Behind encourages all schools to use scientifically based instruction methods. For this reason, President Bush has called for new research to study the best ways to teach young boys and girls to become fluent in English.